

## URGENT ALERT!

### Medicaid Recipients

The Governor of the State of Alabama and his Director of the State Medicaid Pharmacy Program have proposed to do away with your existing pharmacy benefits.

The Alabama State Medicaid Agency wants Gov. Fob James to mandate that you have your Medicaid prescriptions filled through a mail order pharmacy.

#### WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU:

- You will no longer be able to use your local community pharmacy when you need prescriptions and refills.
- You will have to wait for the mail to receive your prescriptions.
- You will no longer be able to ask questions and receive counseling on your prescriptions by the pharmacist you have used and trusted for years.
- A parent with a sick child will have to wait days or in some cases a week to get the medicine they need.
- Many rural areas will lose their community pharmacies.
- The elderly will no longer have a person they know to turn to with concerns and questions about their medicine and health.
- Mail Order Prescriptions can cause harm and death. There have been many documented cases of prescriptions being stolen from mail boxes or simply being lost in the mail.
- The mail-order company that will fill these prescriptions could very well be an out-of-state business. That will mean millions of dollars leaving your community and the State of Alabama.

This discriminates against the poor, the children, and the elderly of Alabama by making it more difficult, if not impossible, to obtain prescriptions when needed.

#### DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN IN ALABAMA! CALL OR CONTACT:

Gov. Fob James in Montgomery  
334 242-7100  
Fax: 334 242-4541

Mary Finch, Director of Medicaid Pharmacy Program  
334 242-5473 • Fax: 334 242-5097

Dr. John Searcy, Medicaid Medical Director  
334 242-5600 • Fax: 334 242-5097

Produced and distributed by Alabama Independent Drugstores Association.  
Fighting to preserve community pharmacy's ability to care for you 334 213-2432

Locally, you need to IMMEDIATELY contact your State Senator Dwight Adams at 894-6639, your State Representative Garreth Moore at 347-8967 and your Governor Fob James, Jr. on his Monday afternoon radio program at 1-800-289-9228.

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your hometown pharmacists and friends at  
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# The Elba Clipper

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## Art Williams visits Mr. Rogers' neighborhood

(Editor's Note: The following article was published in *The Troy Progress* and is special to *The Elba Clipper*. Janine Treadwell, editor of *The Troy Progress*, wrote the article.)

It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood when Art Williams sat down at a piano in Studio A to play for a man who had been a major force in his life.

As he played the title song from public television's longest running program, *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*, the man himself, Fred Rogers, began to sing softly, "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood."

For Williams, that experience was one of the most special moments in his life. For years, he had admired the man who invited him each day into his neighborhood. For young Art Williams, Mr. Rogers' neighborhood was a fascinating and wonderful place. Mr. Rogers had an impact on his life that would give it direction and purpose.

Williams' fascination with children's television began early.

As a child, he sat spellbound at the wonders of WSEA-TV's *Young World* with Marge Payne. The puppets on the show sparked Williams' interest and soon he was writing "back and forth" with the show's host. He started to create his own puppets and set up a set similar to

the one on *Young World* in his own home.

When he was 8 years old, Williams and his puppets were invited to perform on the show. He became somewhat of a regular guest on the show and received invitations to perform all across the television viewing area.

When *Young World* went off the air, Williams moved to Mr. Rogers' neighborhood.

However, he was not content to just watch the program. He wanted to be a neighbor in a more personal way so he began corresponding with Mr. Rogers.

What his eyes couldn't see, his ears heard...the unique playing style of the man on Mr. Rogers' piano.

"My first musical experience was with Johnny Costa," Williams said. "I wanted to play just like him."

Costa was a noted jazz pianist and longtime musical director for the program. His style of playing, spontaneous composition, usually indicates that no printed music is available for what is being played, so no music was available for the way Costa played.

Mr. Rogers' *Songbook* contained simplified music from the program but Williams wanted to play like

Johnny Costa. Fortunately, there was so much demand for Costa's music from adults, that Rogers produced an album titled *Johnny Costa Plays Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood Jazz*.

Williams listened to the album over and over. "I realized the only way I was going to learn to play Costa's music was to write it down," Williams said. "So I dubbed the album on a cassette so I could have control over it and figure it out."

When Williams sat down to the difficult task of transcribing Costa's music, he was only a high school junior.

"I've always believed if you want to do something badly enough you can do it," Williams said. "And I wanted to do it so much."

After he had transcribed two songs, Williams got Costa's address from the telephone book and wrote him.

"I gave him some of my personal background and assured him the only reason for my wanting to transcribe his music was as a motivation to learning," Williams said. "I sent him the transcribed manuscripts and asked him to critique them."

Costa's reply was prompt. "He encouraged me to study music," he said. "I had a good ear and the conception was right on the mark. He did make a few marks on the music but he said they were only for clarity, nothing else."

Williams continued to watch Mr. Rogers and listen to Costa's music. At times, Costa would come on camera with Mr. Rogers.

Years later, when only a few new programs were being taped each year, Costa appeared on camera and Williams noticed the man whom he admired was in failing health.

In August 1996, Williams received a brochure promoting a new Costa album *Christmas Reflections*. While calling to order the album, he noticed wording on the brochure that devastated him...Johnny Costa (1922-1996).

"I was distraught," Williams said. "It had been a lifelong dream to see Johnny Costa and hear him play. It's so sad that those who have such an

impact on our lives don't even know it. Johnny Costa will never know the impact he had on my life."

Williams felt a pressing need to know more about the man he so admired, so he telephoned Lenny Melendandi, the assistant producer of *Mr. Rogers*.

"He worked closely with Costa on the program and on his albums," Williams said. "I knew he could tell me many things about him."

Williams was not able to reach Melendandi by telephone and he left several messages on his answering machine.

"I decided to call him one more time but, before I called, I prayed," Williams said. "When he answered he said he recognized my warm voice from the machine. I knew then, my prayer had been answered."

For 45 minutes, the two shared their mutual admiration for Costa and what a great loss the industry had suffered.

"Melendandi asked me what my ultimate goal was. I told him I would like to visit the program and thank Fred Rogers for what he and his program had meant to my life," Williams said.

The Troy State music education major did not know what a difficult request he had made. Mr. Rogers allows few visitors to Studio A in Pittsburgh. Prior to each taping, he invites special children to the set, but they leave before the actual taping begins.

"He is very intense with his work," Williams said. "When he's taping, his focus is on making contact with his audience and establishing a good rapport with them. He doesn't want anything or anybody to distract him from that."

In light of Williams' request, Melendandi asked Williams to send him information about himself. Williams obliged in a big way. He sent audio and video tapes of him at the piano, playing Costa. He sent photographs of himself. He also sent a photograph of a celesta, a miniature piano that plays steel bars, that he made.

"The bell sounds you hear on Mr. Rogers' show were made by me," Williams said. "I would like to be during the day. You



Pictured above (l-r) are: Art Williams and Fred Rogers

Rogers are made by a celesta," Williams said. "It's an unusual instrument."

Evidently Melendandi and Rogers were impressed. Melendandi called Williams and extended him an invitation from Rogers to visit the studio in Pittsburgh on April 10, 1997.

Melendandi advised Williams the invitation was for only one day but that mattered little to Williams. He would have gone "for one minute."

However, Williams also received an invitation to attend a dedication to Johnny Costa at the Mellon Jazz Festival while he was in Pittsburgh. He met members of Costa's family and that was a big moment for him.

Once in Studio A, Williams took his seat in the audience. Rogers came over to him, welcomed him and thanked him for coming; then he went to visit with a young boy in a wheelchair. That short encounter with Rogers was, perhaps, as much as Williams could expect.

Hours just before taping began, Williams heard his name called to come on stage. "He told me to choose where I would like to be during the day. You

#### NEWS BRIEFS

A Coffee County man, Brick Miller, 56, plead guilty to attempted assault second degree and two counts of criminally negligent homicide Monday afternoon after his trial had begun. He was sentenced to 12 months in the Coffee County Jail on each charge to run concurrently. Sentence was suspended by Circuit Judge Robert Barr with Miller to be on unsupervised probation for 12 months. Miller was originally charged with two counts of manslaughter and one count of assault second degree. A vehicle being driven by Miller crashed through a tree, downed by Hurricane Opal in October 1995, striking Claude Lee, 72, and Betty Lee, 57, killing them both. Dovell "Dub" Jones, 59, was also struck but survived.

Three teenagers were injured in a one-vehicle crash on AL 166 west of Elba Saturday night shortly before midnight. The GEO Tracker being driven by Sterling Jones, 19, of Elba, left the roadway and overturned. Jones, along with passengers Shenna Mount, 15, of Opp, AL and Erica Caldwell, 14, of Elba were taken to Elba General Hospital by units of the Elba Rescue Squad. All three remained in the hospital overnight. The accident was investigated by Alabama State Trooper Tracy Nelson.

#### FATHER AND SON ARRESTED IN RURAL RAID

## Search reveals 109 marijuana plants

by Marvin McLain - Editor

A combined search in Southwest Coffee County by the Coffee County Sheriff's Department and 12th Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force netted 109 marijuana plants and two arrests.

A father and his son, ages 43 and 23 respectively, were arrested Tuesday afternoon, June 10. The names of the individuals are being withheld by the sheriff's department pending further investigation.

In the initial search on Tuesday, 54 marijuana plants were found. Some of the plants were over four-and-a-half feet tall.

Authorities returned to the location on Co. Rd. 492 Wednesday, located and confiscated an additional 39 plants.

On Monday, June 16, sheriff's deputies returned to the location to

continue their search for the illegal plants. This time they were aided by a helicopter. They found 16 more marijuana plants in the vicinity of the original search area.

A total of 109 illegal marijuana plants were confiscated by authorities. The estimated street value of the mature plant, based on the usable marijuana it will produce, is \$2,450.00. This places the estimated value of the "find" at \$267,050.00.

According to Sheriff Ben Moates, this isn't the largest find in the county, but it is a sizable one.

Both men arrested in connection with the drug bust were charged with possession of marijuana in the second degree and possession of drug paraphernalia. Both are misdemeanors.

According to Sheriff Moates, the two men arrested do not own the land where the majority of plants

were found. Authorities are unsure as to who does own it.

He does not believe the two men arrested actually planted the marijuana. It is unusual for marijuana growers to plant on their own property when large areas of commercially owned land are readily available.

The plants were discovered when authorities acted on an anonymous tip. The incident remains under investigation by the sheriff's department and members of the 12th Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force.

## Meet Your Elba Police Officers

Meet Elba Police Chief R. W. "Ronnie" Whitworth. Ronnie is a native of Jasper, AL and has been a member of the Elba Police Department since October 1996. He was appointed chief by the present administration.

Chief Whitworth has been in law enforcement for the past 28 years. He retired from the Alabama State Troopers after 26 years of service. Prior to becoming a state trooper, he was a military policeman for 2 years.

Chief Whitworth has received training in special operation, disaster management, radar and aerial traffic enforcement, radiological monitoring and much, much more. "More than I can remember," said Ronnie. He is also a certified Intoxilizer 5000 operator.

"One of the best things about being in law enforcement is that every day brings something different - a new challenge," said Ronnie.

"When it comes to memorable experiences, there's not just one that stands out above the rest," he said.

The most recent was when during a traffic stop he confiscated more than \$500,000.00 in contraband U. S. currency.

As a state trooper, Whitworth received numerous citations for dedicated service, a life-saving award, selected trooper of the



Chief R. W. Whitworth

year by the Alabama State Troopers' Association in 1990, and other awards that he can't even remember.

"After more than 25 years on the road as a state trooper, more happens than you can recall," said Ronnie.

The chief has one hobby - fishing! Ronnie is married to Kaye M. Whitworth and has three children - a son, Janice; a daughter, Kayron; a daughter, Lee Ann; and a grandson, Austin.

## Elba Water & Electric Board removes cap on late charges

By Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba Water and Electric Board voted last week to remove the cap on late penalties, the penalty has been at a maximum of \$35.00, but that is no longer in effect. Those paying utility bills will pay the same percentage, once they exceed the minimum regardless of the total.

Chairman Tim Johnson explained that many utility users appeared to be using the utility as their "last source payment," after getting money to pay everything else. This is costing the on time payers a additional money.

The utility has \$5,657.83 in uncollected accounts - a large amount of this is from one commercial account, Johnson told board members.

Bad debts collected for the year total \$4,986.34.

Monthly bills totaled \$35,143.73. Superintendent James Grimes reported back on the request that the utility use concrete light poles. He said they have found the cost is higher than first thought and the department's present equipment will not handle them. At this time he is not recommending the change to concrete poles, even in low, wet areas.

The electric department completed work on 82 water orders during the month.

The water department completed work on 57 water orders during the month. This included fixing 26 water leaks and one new construction project.

## \* \* HAPPENINGS \* \*

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.** The Coffee County School Board will hold its monthly meeting Thursday (TODAY), June 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the board room in the BOE Office in Elba. A work session (open to the public) will be held at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regular meeting.

**COMMISSION MEETING.** The Coffee County Commission will hold its bi-monthly meeting Monday, June 23, at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Room located in the County Complex in New Brockton, AL.

**DISASTER TRAINING.** The American Red Cross is sponsoring disaster services training in Elba each Friday during the month of June. The training is being held in the conference room at Elba General Hospital from 9:00 a.m. to noon. For more information call the Red Cross office at 347-2461.

**BLOOD DRIVE.** The Elba General Hospital will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, June 24, from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Those living or working in the Elba area are encouraged to take part in this blood drive. Giving blood is easy, simple and safe. To donate you must be at least 17 years of age, and weigh at least 110 pounds and have not given in the past 56 days. There is no age limit for senior citizens if they are in good health.

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION.** Elba Elementary School Kindergarten Registration for the 1997-98 school year will be held June 18 - 25 from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. each day at the Elba Elementary School Office.







## The Pressbox

with Ricky Mularz

I took the Mularz girls fishing last weekend, and while Mom was busy at one end of the pond swatting bugs and catching fish, I was busy at the other end trying to bait hooks and pull fish off hooks for Melanie and Melissa. The three lady anglers managed to catch over a dozen bream that were big enough to keep, and are already talking about a return trip. I'll admit that even I had fun; however, the next trip won't come anytime too soon!

### GIRLS LEAGUE TO FIELD FOUR ALL-STAR TEAMS

The Elba Girls Softball League wrapped up its season last week, and after the final games, named its All-Star teams that will compete in four age divisions in the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association's district softball competition. This will be the first time the league has ever fielded four All-Star teams; however, the league had six different age divisions this past season, and four of the divisions were eligible for tournament competition.

The "16 and Under" All-Stars will be a very young squad, with only three 16-year-olds, but the Stars should have a very experienced team, and should have a real chance at winning some games. The team, despite being very young, will have seven starters off the Elba High School team that played over thirty games during the school year, and that should give the girls the experience needed to compete against the older girls in the tournament. With the home-field advantage and the experience on the team, this bunch could have a shot at qualifying for state.

The "14 and Under" All-Stars are also a very young team, but most of the girls have played softball since they were in the first grade, and should be a solid team. The Stars will have most of the starting line-up that rolled through the junior varsity schedule with only one loss for the Elba High School squad, and has played enough ball this summer to know what it takes to win. Playing in Eufula will provide a challenge; however, this bunch is much better than many may think, and could hang around for a while next weekend.

The "12 and Under" All-Stars will travel to Andalusia for their district tournament, and like the older two teams, appear to have a solid team in all areas. The league had four teams this past season with plenty of talented young players, and the games were hotly contested right up to the final night, which should make the girls ready for battle. The team has the hitting and defense to win some games, and if the girls play up to their potential, they too should have a shot at moving on.

The "10 and Under" All-Stars will compete in Enterprise, and the hopes are high that the Stars will use a season of experience to get some wins at the district tournament. This was the first time in three years that the nine- and ten-year-olds girls competed against each other in league play, and playing an entire season with each other should pay dividends come tournament time. This group has no tournament experience, but does have plenty of enthusiasm, and that might be just as important.

While everyone wants to be an All-Star, that isn't possible, and last week there were more than a couple of teary-eyed youngsters that left the park after the announcement of the All-Star teams. When four teams merge into one 13-member All-Star team there are a lot of players that are left off, and in many cases some of those players might be as good as the ones that made the team. The teams are chosen by the coaches, and they simply try to pick the very best players that they feel will come to practice and devote the time needed to turn the girls into one team. Just because a player doesn't make the team doesn't mean the player isn't any good. It just means that this time they weren't picked, and it should make the players work even harder next season to make certain they are picked!

### DIXIE BOYS ALL-STARS ARE TOURNEY READY

The Dixie Boys Baseball League named its All-Star teams last week and this will mark the first time ever that Elba has fielded teams in Dixie Boys tournament competition. The boys pitched well during the season to the shorter bases and closeness of the pitching rubber, and now we'll see just how they can do against teams from other towns that have been playing in the league for many, many years. The teams may have some growing pains this season; however, both All-Star teams are filled with quality players and I believe that both teams will represent the league well and leave the other teams wishing that Elba hadn't made the switch.

### NOTES IN CLOSING...

\*\*\*I usually don't pull for the favorite in sports, but last week I'll admit that I was pulling for the Bulls to win their fifth title of the decade. I think Michael Jordan is the best basketball player ever to play the game, and felt like he had been ripped off in the MVP voting, and deserved to win another title. Not only did the Bulls win the title, but Jordan proved once and for all that he is the best ever to play in the NBA.

\*\*\*A group of youngsters from Coffee County will travel to Mobile this weekend to compete in a national youth basketball tournament, and after talking to the team's coach, believe that the team actually has a shot at winning some games. The team has raised money to help pay the cost of the trip, and now only has to worry about playing the game and having fun. It will be a great trip for the youngsters, and the parents and coaches are to be commended for their dedication to the youth of the county.

\*\*\*While the controversial "No Pass, No Play" proposal has been getting a lot of headlines across the state, a new rule that will have an impact a whole lot closer to home will be the decision by the Elba Board of Education to drug test all students that take part in athletics. I for one don't really believe that the testing will have any major impact on the student-athletes, but I hope that if there are many students that experiment with drugs, the knowledge that they will be tested, might be enough of a scare to keep them off the drugs for good. I know the testing has the students talking, and I guess only time will tell.

\*\*\*Another part of the "No Pass, No Play" controversy that came forward last week dealt with the state's contention that the academic rule would apply to all extra-curricular activities, including band and clubs. Many music instructors have already voiced opposition to the inclusion of all extra-curricular activities; however, I for one believe that it should indeed be a blanket policy, and that all students should have to meet the same academic standards to participate in the activities.

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## Sports

Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

### Four teams win age divisions

## Champions are crowned in girls softball league

The Girl's Softball Leagues came to an end last week with the Bandits, Chiefs, Redwings and Jammers claiming the championships in their respective age divisions.

Following are highlights of last week's action:  
 \*\*\*The Bandits closed out an undefeated season by rolling past the Blaze 18-9. Melanie Mularz scored 3 runs to lead the Bandits, while Whitney Kilecase, Kristen Parker, Jennifer Barlow and Brittany Johnson all scored twice. Leslie Flowers scored twice for the Blaze.

\*\*\*The Cannons led the way to down the Chicks 10-3. Mallory Allen and Kayla Byrd both got 3 hits for the Cannons, while Elena McCormick, Ashley Carney, Autumn Parker and Kristen Parker all added 2 hits. Anna Bryant scored 3 runs for the Chicks.

\*\*\*The Renegades pulled ahead early and held on late to edge past the Red Stix 11-9. Lacy Carlie and Stacy Chism both got 2 hits for the Renegades, while Heather Carroll, Megan Holloway and Connie Barker all got 2 hits for the Red Stix.

\*\*\*The Chicks scored runs in bunches to shut down the Cannons 21-4. Jennifer Hilyer, Marissa Lawman and Valerie Hutchinson all scored 3 runs for the Chicks, while Anna Bryant, Amber Adams and Lindsey Tillery all scored twice.

\*\*\*The Cannons led all the way to blast the Chiefs 15-5. Mallory Allen scored 3 runs for the Cannons, while Kayla Byrd, Elena McCormick, Kristen Parker and Kristie Spinks all scored twice. Becky Stinson scored 2 runs for the Chiefs.

\*\*\*The Redwings scored runs in bunches to rip the Red Stix 14-3. Brittany Daniels and Laguna Mack both scored 3 runs for the Redwings.

### Giants win Coach-Pitch baseball crown

The Coach-Pitch Boys Baseball League saw its regular season draw to a close last week with the Giants taking home the league crown.

Following are highlights of last week's action:  
 \*\*\*The Mariners held on late to edge past the Rangers 11-10. Thomas Robinson, Gage Nalley and Joey Jones all scored twice for the Mariners, while Trey Martin and Aaron Burks both scored 3 runs for the Mariners, while Andrew Blenn scored twice.

\*\*\*The Giants pulled on top early and rolled to a 20-10 win over the Angels. Brandon Mashburn, Jason Johnson, Colton Creel and Brad Sullivan all scored 3 runs for the Giants, while Gray and Chafin Johnson both scored 3 runs for the Mariners, while Trey Martin and Aaron Burks both scored twice.

### Coffee County Mud Traxx rolls along

The Coffee County Mud Traxx held another exciting evening of racing on June 7, with Ray Peak and "Georgia Boy" being the only two-time winners.

Anna Miller, behind the wheel of "Anna's Toy," claimed the win in the Factory Stock, followed by Jeremy Layton and Paul Adams in the "Georgia Boy" being the only two-time winners.

The Factory Modified event was won by Ronald Davis, Jr., driving "Midnight Rider." Billy Nelson, in "Master of Disaster," placed second, while finishing third was Nathan Sanders, in "Raw Bone."

Cindy Nelson, driving "Master of Disaster," claimed the top spot in the Ladies Factory Modified, followed by Tammy Buzzan in "Raw Bone," and Anna Miller, in "Anna's Toy."

The Super Stock event was won by Ray Peak, behind the wheel of "Georgia Boy." Doug Golden, in "Poison Passion," placed second, followed in third by Calvin Buzzan, in "The Boss."

The Ladies Super Stock event was won by Tammy Golden, driving "Blue Thunder." Lisa Boutwell, in "Poison Passion," placed second, and was followed in third by Hollie Kelley, driving "Play Time."

Ray Peak claimed his second crown of the night by winning the Pro Stock event, again behind the wheel of "Georgia Boy." Heavy Watson placed second in "Dixie Stomper," and Doug Golden, in "Blue Thunder," placed third.

The next night of racing will take place on Saturday, June 21, beginning at 6 PM, rain or shine.

Coffee County Mud Traxx is located just off Highway 87, North of Elba, Alabama.

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\*\*\*The Jammers led all the way to post an easy 28-6 win over the Lookouts. Vaughan Boyd got 3 hits to lead the Jammers, while Michelle Lewis, Amber Frederick and Melissa Grantham all added 2 hits.

\*\*\*The Jammers closed out the season with a perfect record by posting a big 24-2 win over the Wildfires. Raean McCollough got 3 hits to lead the Jammers, while Vaughan Boyd, Amber Frederick, Melissa Grantham, Tyeisha Tyson, Christy Smith and Heather Hudson all added 2.

## ELBA GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

\*\*\* 1997 ALL-STARS \*\*\*  
 TOURNAMENTS ON JUNE 27-28, 1997

### "16 & UNDER DIVISION"

Mississa Mularz  
 Raean McCollough  
 Christy Smith  
 Michelle Lewis  
 Amber Frederick  
 Kendra Vaughan  
 Melissa Grantham  
 Vaughan Boyd  
 Tyeisha Tyson

Lindsey Jared  
 Leslie Stinson  
 Meghan Lee  
 Katie Vaughan  
 Coaches:  
 Ricky Mularz  
 James Simmons  
 Mike Jared  
 TOURNEY IN ELBA

### "14 & UNDER DIVISION"

Rachel Bludsworth  
 Renee Wambles  
 Natasha Bannin  
 Casey Skinner  
 Brandy Davis  
 Courtney Jackson  
 Charly Barlow  
 Victoria Tyler  
 Heather Hudson

Aubretta Williams  
 Melissa Kelley  
 Kasey Manning  
 Kendra Cole  
 Coaches:  
 Reb Bludsworth  
 Luke Bludsworth  
 Charles Cole  
 TOURNEY IN EUFAULA

### "12 & UNDER DIVISION"

Samantha Williams  
 Devri Kilecase  
 April Burks  
 Laguna Mack  
 Meghan Parrish  
 Brittany Daniels  
 Melissa Sanders  
 Deann Smith  
 Delora Moore

Greta Robinson  
 Danae Ware  
 Kaci Grantham  
 Stacy Chism  
 Coaches:  
 Steve Williams  
 Billy Grantham  
 Mike Sanders  
 TOURNEY IN ANDALUSIA

### "10 & UNDER DIVISION"

Stephanie Baxley  
 Ashley Gibson  
 Becky Stinson  
 Allison Smith  
 Whitney Lawford  
 Allison Brunson  
 Ashley Shelton  
 Cassidy Cooper  
 Emily Paul

Ashley Camley  
 Mallory Allen  
 Lyndsay Lawford  
 Marissa Lowman  
 Coaches:  
 Laura Baxley  
 Michelle Cooper  
 Melinda Lee  
 TOURNEY IN ENTERPRISE

## DIXIE BOYS BASEBALL LEAGUE

\*\*\* 1997 ALL-STARS \*\*\*  
 TOURNAMENTS ON JUNE 26-JULY 2 IN GREENVILLE

### "14 YEAR-OLD DIVISION"

Jason Caradine  
 Matt Windham  
 Austin Harris  
 Adam Sutley  
 Nick Anderson  
 Britt Grimes  
 Brandon Salter  
 Marcus Taylor  
 Clay Sutley

Alan Head  
 Chris Turner  
 Jimbo Cook  
 Tony Smith  
 Coaches:  
 Jerry Salter  
 Bryan Grimes  
 Shannon Brown

### "13 YEAR-OLD DIVISION"

Jeremy Meeks  
 Randy Danford  
 Adam Frederick  
 Randall Brunson  
 Micheal Bryan  
 Seth Legg  
 Bart Barnes  
 Patrick Oglesby  
 Jonathan Head

Justin Harbuck  
 Zack Gifford  
 Adam Henderson  
 Jeremy Mack  
 Coaches:  
 Doyle Barnes  
 Wayne Meeks  
 Tom Head

## Bartow Maddox Reunion set for Saturday, June 28

The Francis General Bartow Maddox Family Reunion is held on the last Saturday of June each year, and is scheduled for June 28, 1997, at the Elba Elementary School cafeteria, beginning at 10 a.m.

"Uncle Bartow," as he was known to most people, lived in the Woodland Grove Community, and is buried in the Woodland Grove Cemetery.

The father of 16 children who reached maturity, he has many descendants, many living in this area. Family and friends are invited to attend the reunion.

Barbecue plates may be purchased in advance by sending \$6 for adult plates and \$4 for children's plates to:

Tom Maddox, 930 Brookdale Ave., Elba.

Attendees may also bring covered dish lunch items.

**Shiloh Baptist Church to have Vacation Bible School June 23-27**

Shiloh Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School June 23 - 27, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

All ages are invited.

**Special concert to be held at Enterprise Church of God**

The Enterprise Church of God will be having a special concert with a variety of musical acts on Sunday evening, June 22, at 6:00 p.m. The church is located at 1303 East Park Avenue in Enterprise, AL. For more information call 347-6118. This is a love-offering concert.

**Card Of Thanks**

"Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, flowers, food, phone calls and visits.  
 The treatment is working so please continue to pray for me.  
 Sincerely,  
 Mary Deupree  
 6-19-1tp  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12  
 \*\*\*Thinking of you, praying for you, the Starks family, Rev. J.M. Bryant, family, Rev. E. Magwood, Pearl Tilly, Rev. J.L. Caldwell, Mary Brooks, Barbara Caldwell, Mary Tilly, Tammy Tilly, Leticia R. Davis.

\*\*\*Youth need to know: African American History - June - Monthly motivation - The secret to the fountain of youth is to think thoughtful thoughts. - Josephine Baker, dancer and entertainer.

"Timeline 1974 - June 13 - Henry 'Hank' Aaron breaks Babe Ruth's major league record with 715 home runs.

"Timeline 1896 - June 14 - The National Association of Colored Women is formed.

"Timeline 1986 - June 16 - Black physicist and astronaut, Ronald McNair, dies, along with the rest of the crew of the space shuttle, 'Challenger,' when it explodes shortly after take-off.

"Did You Know? Sojourner Truth, Civil Rights activist, was given the name Isabella Van Wagener at birth, in-1797, in New York?"

\*\*\*Appreciation Day, honoring Deacon Lewis Carpenter, 37 years of dedicated service as the oldest deacon of Jordan Grove Baptist Church, will be rendered by Community Choir, other choirs, soloist and Mulberry Male Chorus.

"Welcome," by Dea. Charles Grace and the occasion by Bro. Vincent Bryant, readings by Leticia Davis and Sis. Barbara Adams, expressed by friends (three minutes), song by Dea. Lester Burnett, Dea. Lonnie J. Burnett and Dea. Lewis Carpenter.

Monday night only - Invitation to Christian Discipleship - Offering - Remarks - announcements and benediction.

Monday night - Shady Grove A.M.E., Elba, Elba Zion Baptist, Elba, and Rocky Head Baptist, Elba, Sis. Stephens A.M.E., Opp, and Bethel Baptist, Elba.

Tuesday night - Bethel A.M.E., Elba; Piney Grove Baptist, Opp; Oak Grove Baptist, Elba; Collins Chapel, Elba.

Wednesday night - Elba, Rev. U. A.M.E., Brundidge, & St. Paul Kinney, pastor, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church's founding on Sunday, June 22, at 3 p.m.

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Billy J. Redd  
 Elba First Assembly of God

### NO MORE GUILT

Have you ever experienced the "good" feeling of having someone forgive you for doing a wrong? But then sometimes after being forgiven still we feel a tinge of guilt about the matter and even shy away from the presence of that person. Many times in the spiritual realm we find ourselves facing the same predicament.

Many sincere Christians are carrying a very heavy burden of guilt for past sins, even though we know God states in Jeremiah 31:34, "I will forgive their iniquity (sin), and I will remember their sin no more." Satan wants to keep us feeling condemned so we will not go out and do something for God. Often individuals just need to understand that God has forgiven their past sins and that he has cleansed them from all unrighteousness. You see, 1 John 1:9 is still true and effective: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We must know and accept also that when God forgives our sins He removes them forever, "as far as the east is from the west." (Ps. 103:12).

Satan wants people to continue to remember their shortcomings and to dwell on them; because when we do this, it is very difficult for us to be effective for God. Though it may be hard to accept at times, we must understand that God has forgiven us and the devil is a liar and a sore loser. We must accept God's forgiveness and also forgive ourselves for being deceived into sin.

Forgiveness must be received and guilt must be put aside, because God has forgiven us and we do not have to carry a burden of guilt for past sins. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit." (Romans 8:1).

Let us serve God with gladness, not guilt!

Jesus is still Lord.

## ROUND & ABOUT WITH ERIA- 897-2006

A.M.E., New Brockton, Bethel Episcopal Church, Elba, Rev. U. A.M.E., Brundidge, & St. Paul Kinney, pastor, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church's founding on Sunday, June 22, at 3 p.m.

Wednesday night - Elba, Rev. U. A.M.E., Brundidge, & St. Paul Kinney, pastor, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church's founding on Sunday, June 22, at 3 p.m.

Thursday night - New Zion Baptist, Elba, Rev. U. A.M.E., Brundidge, & St. Paul Kinney, pastor, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church's founding on Sunday, June 22, at 3 p.m.

Friday night - St. Joseph A.M.E., Elba, Rev. U. A.M.E., Brundidge, & St. Paul Kinney, pastor, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church's founding on Sunday, June 22, at 3 p.m.

Saturday night - St. Joseph A.M.E., Elba, Rev. U. A.M.E., Brundidge, & St. Paul Kinney, pastor, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church's founding on Sunday, June 22, at 3 p.m.

Sunday - St. Joseph A.M.E., Elba, Rev. U. A.M.E., Brundidge, & St. Paul Kinney, pastor, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church's founding on Sunday, June 22, at 3 p.m.

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## Social Notes

### Wise-Long wedding to be held July 26th



Miss Whitney Lacey Wise

Mrs. Robin Earl Morgan of Enterprise announces the engagement of her daughter, Whitney Lacey Wise, to Victor Markiel Long, son of John W. Long of Omond Beach, FL and Rona Long of St. Simons Island, GA. Miss Wise is the daughter of the late James J. Wise II of Elba.

Miss Wise is the granddaughter of Mrs. Mary Alice Wise and the late James J. Wise, Sr. of Elba and Mrs. Mary Nolen and the late Austin J. Lacey of Red Level, AL.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Elba High School and Auburn University, where she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority. She is employed at The Yellow Canary on St. Simons Island, GA.

Mr. Long is the grandson of Mrs. Irene Long and the late David Long of Bainbridge, GA; and Mrs. Florence Dutton and the late Norman Paul Dutton of Billings, MT.

The future groom is a graduate of Glynn Academy and the University of Georgia, where he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. He is owner of Victor Sinclair Cigars on St. Simons Island, GA.

A July 26th wedding is planned for 7:00 p.m. at Lovely Lane Chapel, Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simons Island. A reception will be held at the home of Jeff and Susan Wainwright.

A local reception will be held in August.

### Davis-Laughlin united in holy matrimony



Mrs. William Boyd Davis

Julie R. Laughlin and William Boyd Davis, both of Charlotte, N.C., were married April 26, 1997, at The Church of the Cross in Bluffton, S.C. The Rev. Charles E. Owens III officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Abel Laughlin of Hilton Head Island, S.C.

The bridegroom's parents are Susan Murphree Davis of Montgomery and Robert Guy Davis Sr. of Humusville.

She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Alvin Root of Lancaster, Pa., and Margaret Abel Laughlin of Hilton Head Island and the late Dr. Robert Miller Laughlin.

He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Boyd Murphree of Elba, and the late Gustie Reed Davis and the late Paul Ira Davis of Scottsboro.

Mrs. Lara Laughlin Tolchin of Durham, N.C., sister of the bride, served as matron of honor. Ashley Breeden of Columbus, Ga., was maid of honor.

Bridesmaids were Tanya Counter of Atlanta, Ga.; Jennifer Moore, Auburn, Ala.; Tonya Luckett, Nashville, Tenn.; and Ebru Ercan, Atlanta, Ga.

The bridegroom's brother, Robert Guy Davis Jr., Huntsville, Ala., served as best man.

Groomsmen were Tommy Janies and Larry Elliott of Montgomery; Moss Pettigrew and Mark Murphy, Atlanta, Ga.

Ryan Slead of Lancaster, Pa., cousin of the bride, was junior groomsmen.

Wesley Davis, Huntsville, nephew of the bridegroom, and Eric Slead, Lancaster, Pa., cousin of the bride, were ring-bearers.

Lindsay Davis, Huntsville, niece of the bridegroom; Ashley Lauren Farabaugh and Hannah Farabaugh, cousins of the bride, both of Philadelphia, Pa., were flower girls.

Debra Bell, organist, and the St. Julian Street Trio of Savannah, Ga., provided a program of nuptial music. Dinner and dancing at the Colleton River Plantation followed the ceremony.

After a honeymoon to Cumberland Island and The Cloister, Sea Island, Ga., the couple resides in Charlotte.

### Grandchildren visit Larry and Charlene Sanders



Whitney Rugg

Brooke, age 4, and Shelby, age 1, have been visiting their grandparents, Larry and Charlene Sanders of Albany, Ga.

Brooke's parents are Todd Sanders, Albany, Ga., and Rebecca Blazer Campbell of Enterprise, Ala.

Shelby Lane is the daughter of Tracey and Amanda Sanders of Albany, Ga.

Great-grandparents are Mr. Mrs. James L. Sanders, Elba.

Brooke's maternal grandparents are Elden Blazer, Enterprise; and Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Pate, Ripley, Tenn.

Shelby Lane's maternal grandparents are Mrs. Brenda Taylor, Dothan, and the late Wilbur Galimore, Elba; Mr. and Mrs. James L. Sanders, Elba, and the late Marie Talbot, Elba.

The guests were treated to breakfast pastries, coffee and tea on their arrival at the pond. Staff members of the four centers and members of the two Civic Clubs assisted with baiting hooks, finding nice places around the pond to lure the fish to their poles, and in some cases, taking the fish off the hooks.

All noon members of the Opp Civitan Club had prepared ham and cheese sandwiches, turkey sandwiches, and potato chips, along with several gallons of tea and lemonade to feed the excited fishermen.

Any fish too small to keep were saved to help restock a neighbor's pond.



Shelby &amp; Brooke Sanders

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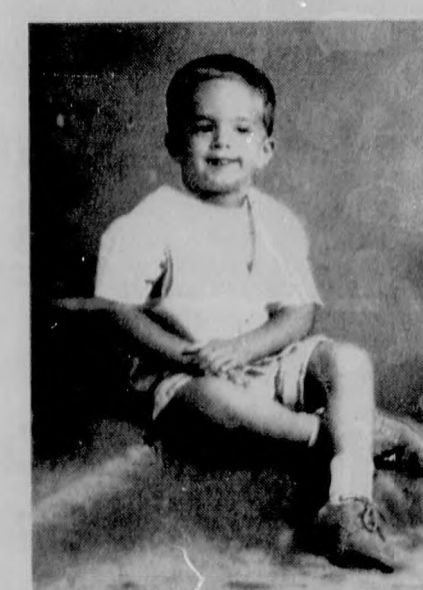
### Whitney Rugg celebrates first birthday

Whitney Rugg celebrated her first birthday Saturday, May 10, 1997. She is the daughter of Richie and Amy (White) Rugg of Elba.

Whitney enjoyed cake, cookies, chips and punch with her family and friends.

She is the granddaughter of David and Joni White of Elba, Barbara Rugg of Elba, and Buddy Rugg of Chicago, Ill.

Great-grandparents are Foy and Lila White of Elba, Dorothy Whitehead of Enterprise, James and Agatha Skinner of Elba.



Justin Lee Peak

### Justin Lee Peak celebrates third birthday

Justin Lee Peak, son of Ricky and Sherri Peak of Dothan, celebrated his third birthday on May 13.

He celebrated his special day with a "real" fire truck party at his home with relatives and friends. Justin is the grandson of Tommy and Mary Deupree of Elba, and Nellie Peak of Geneva.

### Shelby Lane Sanders is one year old



Shelby Lane Sanders

Shelby Lane Sanders celebrated her first birthday March 17, 1997, at her home with friends and relatives. Theme of her party was "Sesame Street." Games were played and lots of fun was shared by all attending.

Shelby Lane's parents are Tracey and Amanda Sanders of Albany, Ga. Grandparents are Larry and Charlene Sanders of Albany, Ga.; Mrs. Brenda Taylor, Dothan; and Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor of Celina, Ohio.

Great-grandparents are Mrs. Wiladene Galimore Bankston, Dothan, and the late Wilbur Galimore, Elba; Mr. and Mrs. James L. Sanders, Elba, and the late Marie Talbot, Elba.

Great-grandparents are Mr. Mrs. James L. Sanders, Elba.

Brooke's maternal grandparents are Elden Blazer, Enterprise; and Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Pate, Ripley, Tenn.

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## Social & Community News

### Hostesses honor Miss Tammy Hodge with miscellaneous bridal shower



Pictured left to right: Mrs. Lois English, Miss Tammy Hodge - honor-ee and Mrs. Rayford Hodge.

Miss Tammy Hodge, bride-elect of Mr. Jim English, was honored at a miscellaneous bridal shower on Sunday, May 25, at Aunt B's Bed and Breakfast. Many friends and relatives attended the joyous occasion.

Guests were greeted by Mrs. Bobby Hudson, owner and hostess of Aunt B's. They were presented to a receiving line composed of Miss Hodge; her step-mother, Mrs. Rayford Hodge; and Mrs. Lois English, mother of the future groom.

Guests were registered by Mrs. Doug Davis, sister of the groom-to-be.

Delicious refreshments were served by Mrs. Willis Ray Crocker and Mrs. Harold Kelley. Spring flowers adorned the dining table and filled the rooms of the home where the guests visited and viewed the bride's gifts.

Hostesses for the occasion were Mrs. Verbie Herring, Mrs. Bill Driggers, Mrs. Rob English, Mrs. Sue Bryan, Mrs. Myra Kelley, Mrs. James E. Grimes, Mrs. G. A. Lindsey, Mrs. Butch Oggs, Mrs. Gerald Tucker, Mrs. Mozelle Prescott, Mrs. Malcolm Davis, Mrs. Billy English, Mrs. Richard Jacobs, Mrs. Jane Hudson, Mrs. Randy Bedelle, Mrs. Dwight Kelley, Mrs. Carol Marler, Mrs. Huey Wayne Allen, Mrs. Jewel Davis, Mrs. Gus McCall, and Mrs. Bobby Hudson.

### Kim Miller receives PTA degree from Wallace Community College

Kim Miller of Elba is a 1997 graduate of the Physical Therapy program at Wallace Community College.

A second class has been accepted and begins June 16.

The college was notified on May 1, 1997, that its physical assistant program has been awarded initial accreditation.

The accreditation process began September 1995 and involved two on-site visits to the campus by representatives of the accrediting body, the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Educators located in Alexandria, Va.

The program, admitted its first class on June 17, 1996, and graduated all 26 of these students on June 10, 1997.

All of the graduates have found employment in their field with 23

### Phil Boggan graduates from West AL recently

The University of West Alabama's commencement exercises were held on Saturday, June 1, 1997 on the West Alabama campus. 477 degrees were conferred from the four colleges and the Division of Nursing which comprise the university.

Phil Boggan of Elba, AL graduated from the College of Education with a Bachelor of Science degree.

### BEAVER DAM APARTMENTS Highway 84 W. Elba, AL.

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### WAREHOUSE LIQUIDATION SALE

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Sale Started Saturday June 14th

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The Elba Clipper 417 Buford St. Elba 897-2823

### 1997 Kleinert's Scholarships awarded

The Kleinert's Scholarship Fund Committee has selected area students to receive college scholarships. The Scholarship Committee is composed of independent appointees and educational professionals. Student recipients are as follows:

**Beth Edison**, daughter of Cathy Edison - Playwear

**Olivia Nicole Tillis**, daughter of Evelyn Tillis - Knt Sets

**Heather Vaughan**, daughter of Brenda Pridgen - Blanket Sleepers

Each of the students is eligible to receive up to \$2,000 per year for tuition and other costs directly related to the pursuit of a four-year degree at any accredited college or university.



Diana Davis

### Davis-Pitts wedding to be held

Diana Davis of Elba announces her forthcoming marriage to Ulycees Pitts.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie D. (Bonelle) Davis. She is employed at General Mfg. in Opp, and is a member of Greater New Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Elba.

The future groom is employed at Sanders Lead Company in Troy. He is a member of St. Matthews A.M.E. Church in Brantley, Ala.

The marriage will take place at Greater New Zion Baptist Church, June 29, at six o'clock in the evening.

All friends and relatives are invited to attend.

### New Arrival

#### MARY ELIZABETH BRUNSON

Stephanie and Matt Brunson of Elba proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Mary Elizabeth, on Wednesday, June 1, 1997, at Medical Center, Enterprise.

Mary weighed six pounds, twelve ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Kathryn Cooper of Enterprise and Bobby Hall of Ozark.

Paternal grandparents are Nancy and Marion Brunson of Elba.

Maternal great-grandparents are Connie and Joe Wessel of Daleville.

Paternal great-grandparents are the late Fox and Mary Bailey Brunson of Elba.

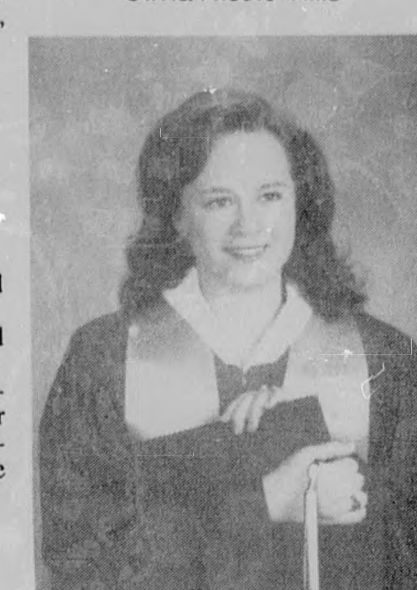
Mary was especially welcomed home by her seven-year old brother, Matthew.



Beth Edison



Olivia Nicole Tillis



Heather Vaughan

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## MORE CITIZENS OF TOMORROW



Pictured above are Jeffery Wright, age 2, and Jasmine Wright, age 5. They are the children of ConTina Daniels of Elba.



Pictured above are Austin, age 7, and Griffin, age 10. They are the children of John and Starla Jones of Elba.



Pictured above is D.J. McKee, age 5. He is the son of Mike and Melissa McKee of Elba.



Pictured above are Wesley, age 8, and Katlyn, age 3. They are the children of Kenneth and Katrina Calhoun of Elba.



Pictured above are Andrew, age 6, and Steven, age 2. They are the children of Rhonda and Jim D. Little of Glenwood.



Pictured above is Brian, age 7. He is the son of Dean and Melonee Blair of Elba.



Pictured above are Kelli, age 3, and Brandon, age 11. They are the children of Donna Arnold of Jack.



Pictured above are Jaron and Connor, age 2 1/2. They are the children of Sabrina and Scott Kelley of Elba.



Pictured above are Nicholas, age 8, and Isaac, age 3. They are the children of John and Christina Nelson of Elba.



Pictured above is Whitney, age 10. She is the daughter of Amy and Richie Rugg of Elba.



Pictured above is Khaleb, age 2. He is the son of Alice D. Hammonds of Elba.



Pictured above are Lydia, age 4, and Tiffany, age 6. They are the children of Maria A. Kelley of Elba.



Pictured above is Matthew, age 6. He is the son of Marty and Angie Marler of Elba.



Pictured above are Camden, age 4, and Candace, age 2. They are the children of Mickey and Renee Kelley of Elba.



Pictured above are Kyle, age 5, and Justin, age 18. They are the children of Don and Sandy Pope of Elba.



Pictured above is Emilee Hudson, age 5. She is the daughter of Tim and Michelle Hudson of Elba.



Pictured above is Kayla Homyak, age 9. She is the daughter of George and Betty Homyak of Elba.



Pictured above are Elisa, age 2, and Paige, age 1. They are the children of Toni and Patrick Dewberry of New Brockton.



Pictured above is Korie Machado, age 2. He is the son of Regina Free Machado and Miguel Machado of Elba.



Pictured above are Bailey, age 3 1/2, and Keeley, age 18. They are the children of Chuck and Michelle Daugherty of Troy.



Pictured above are Meagan, age 2, and Ty, age 4 1/2. They are the children of Michael and Danet Stewart of Elba.



Pictured above are Jauan, age 8, and Tierney, age 6. They are the children of Eld. James and Leslie Starks of Elba.



Pictured above is Malik, age 8. He is the son of Alka Waters and Kevin Smith of Elba.



Pictured above are Chafin, age 8, and Cameron, age 3 1/2. They are the children of Tim and Lisa Johnson of Elba.

*So Proudly We'll Fail...*

# ARE YOU PLAYING WITH FIRE?



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Pictured above are Austin, age 2 1/2, and Chance, age 6. They are the children of Glen and Kerry Johnson of Elba.



Pictured above is Vincent, age 6. He is the son of Barbara Campbell of Elba.



Pictured above is Hayden, age 9. He is the son of Keith and Toshia Chandler of Elba.

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## CITIZENS OF TOMORROW



Pictured above is Billy Driggers II, age 3 1/2. He is the grandson of Linda and Ricky Berry of Elba.



Pictured above is Tiffany Harrison, age 4. She is the daughter of Terry and Michelle Harrison of Elba.



Pictured above are Ashton, age 4, and Mason, age 2 1/2. They are the children of Mark and Robin Davis of Elba.



Pictured above is Hillary, age 5. She is the daughter of Tammy L. Davis of Elba.



Pictured above is Justin Kyle, age 1. He is the son of Daniel and Heather Kidd of Brantley.



Pictured above is Macy, age 6. She is the daughter of Scott and Stephanie McIntosh of New Brockton.



Pictured above is Brennen Schender, age 2. He is the son of Jessica Schender of Elba.



Pictured above is Cody LaDon, age 2. He is the son of Tim and Sherry Daniels of Elba.



Pictured above is Matthew, age 3 1/2. He is the son of Missy Rogers of Elba.



Pictured above is Savannah, age 2 1/2. She is the daughter of Bobby and Amanda Ellis of Elba.



Pictured above are Courtney Parrish, age 3, and Shabira Thomas, age 1. They are the children of Heather Macdon of Elba.



Pictured above are Shay, age 7, and Brandon, age 2. They are the children of Lee and Melinda Carpenter of Elba.



Pictured above is Hayden, age 19. He is the son of Eddy and Brandy Distot of Elba.



Pictured above is Stephanie, age 5 1/2. She is the daughter of Tim and Stacie Beavers of Elba.



Pictured above are Kelli, age 10, and twins Kyle and Kaleb, age 1. They are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Richard of Elba.



Pictured above is Ashton Senn, age 2. He is the son of Johnny P. Senn of Elba.



Pictured above are Shabira Thomas, age 3, and Shakiva Thomas, age 1. They are the children of Walter and Sabrina Thomas of Elba.



Pictured above are Marcus, age 12, and Martin, age 2. They are the children of Jennifer Henderson of Elba.



Pictured above is Andrew Lowery, age 2. He is the son of David and Kim Lowery of Elba.



Pictured above are Shea, age 9, and Brooke, age 1. They are the children of Beth Manning of Elba.



Pictured above are Bethany, age 3, and Bradley, age 6. They are the children of Brad and Lynn Wilson of Elba.



Pictured above are Lindsey, age 3 1/2, and Garrett, age 16. They are the children of Dennis and Nancy Smith of Elba.



Pictured above is Jon Ashley, age 20. He is the son of Mike and Starla Amison of Elba.



Pictured above is Jarret Johnson, age 16. He is the son of Chris and Sandy Johnson of Elba.



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## 1 BEDROOM HOUSE FOR SALE



## Hocutt Park dedication held on Memorial Day

Memorial Day weekend was the setting for a patriotic service dedicating a local private park in memory of George E. Hocutt (deceased) of Elba.

The simple service, attended by about 25 family members, was conducted May 25, at 3:00 p.m. in the park on Pinedale Drive in Elba.

The service was dedicated "to the glory of God, the honor of American Veterans, and the memory of George Hocutt," according to Mrs. Evelyn Whitman Hocutt, Hocutt's widow.

The natural setting of the park, on the banks of a small creek, features a natural wood gazebo, park benches, a bird bath, bird feeder, and several bird houses. Native plants such as redbud trees, dogwoods, azaleas and native azaleas (wild honeysuckle), and the sound of a water fall enhance the restive atmosphere.

Mrs. Hocutt opened the service by welcoming the guests and explaining how the idea of the park had grown out of the landscaping work she and George enjoyed doing in their yards.

"This park was built as a place of rest, reflection and meditation," she said.

Keith Hocutt of Wake Forest, NC read a scripture, led in prayer and led the group in singing "God's Beautiful World." Eric McNair of Tallahassee, FL and Steve Stabler of Auburn, AL raised the American Flag, donated by the Department of Veterans Affairs in honor of the World War II Naval service of Mr. Hocutt.

Lawanna Hocutt Flowers of Crawfordville, FL led the Pledge of Allegiance and read a tribute to the American flag.

Veterans in attendance who were recognized were Basil Whitman, Clark Edwards, Raymond Hill, Steve Stabler, R. B. Stabler, and Travis Whitman.

Carolyn Hocutt directed as Marion and Hannah Hocutt of Wake Forest, NC and Della Stabler of Auburn, AL signed to "Love in Any Language" by Sandi Patil.

Evelyn Hocutt presented a skit on "The Hats We Wear," emphasizing that the roles we fill in life reveal our true character.

Using the hats from George's collection as examples, she explained how he was a citizen of Elba, an employee of Dorsey Trailers, a volunteer missionary with World Change, a member of Lions Club, a Red Cross volunteer, a Coffee County

Baptist Association Disaster volunteer, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer, and a man who enjoyed some leisure time to hunt and fish.

Audience participants helped in listing some of the hats we wear every day such as compassion, encouragement, kindness, sharing, meekness, love, etc.

Deborah Hocutt Stabler of Auburn, AL read a poem, "The Bridge Builder," by Will Allen Dromgoole, relating how her father "built bridges" over the "chasm" of discouragement, fear and temptation through prayer, conviction, example and action.

At the end of the service, audience members were invited to recall and share memories of George. The group joined hands in a circle and sang "Bless Be The Tie That Binds" for the benediction.

Guests included Miss Dovie Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. Basil Whitman, Mrs. Della Whitman, Mrs. Quinnie Whitman all of Elba; Mrs. Arizona Parrish of New Brockton; Mr. and Mrs. Clark Edwards of Enterprise; Mr. and Mrs. Travis Whitman of Panama City, FL; Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Hill of Lakeland, FL; and Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Stabler of Greenville, AL.

Friends are invited to drive by and enjoy the park Mrs. Hocutt said.



Pictured above are (l-r): Mrs. Della Whitman and Evelyn Hocutt with the donated American Flag which will fly over the park.

## Traffic deaths up in state following speed limit increase on highways

by Marvin McLwain - Editor

Reports of traffic fatalities in Alabama for periods before and after 1996 speed limit increases indicate an upward trend in traffic deaths on interstate and four-lane U. S. highways compared with 1995 statistics, according to Col. L. N. Hagan, Department of Public Safety director.

Legislation enacted in May 1996 raised maximum speeds on interstates from 65 to 70 miles per hour, and allowed maximum speeds on roadways with four or more lanes to be increased from 55 to 65 miles per hour.

Hagan said data collected for seven months after speed limits were raised indicates a 27 percent increase in fatalities on interstates and a 15 percent increase on U. S. highways with four or more lanes.

Fatality statistics for the 1997 calendar year (year-to-date) show a 100 percent increase in rural interstate fatalities, a 15 percent reduction in rural fatalities on state highways, and a 6 percent reduction in rural fatalities on county roads.

Rural traffic fatalities on U. S. roadways remain virtually unchanged compared with the previous year. Total rural fatalities recorded to date for 1997 equal 289, compared with 283 in 1996.

Hagan said the DPS continues to monitor traffic crash and fatality trends to help guide enforcement activities. He said state troopers are focusing on speed limit enforcement with the help of a federal overtime grant. Additionally, troopers recently

received a federal overtime grant targeting DUI enforcement.

Hagan attributed fatality increases partly due to decreased trooper presence.

"Clearly, one of the reasons we are seeing an increase in rural traffic deaths is the lack of road troopers," he said. "We've been hanging by our fingernails for a number of years."

Trooper strength is rebounding, however, due to Gov. Fob James' and the Legislature's support for trooper hiring and training, said Hagan.

"Thanks to Gov. James and our legislators, Public Safety has been able to hire and train two classes of troopers, with a third class planned for late summer," said Hagan.

Additionally, DPS has requested funding to hire, train and equip two classes of troopers during FY97-98. "We look to these newly hired troopers and the existing officers in Highway Patrol to help reverse the tragic fatality trend," Hagan said.

In addition to enforcement, troopers work to educate Alabamians regarding the importance of responsible driving behavior, said Hagan.

"State troopers urge Alabama motorists to observe posted speed limits and to be aware that higher speeds result in more severe crashes and increased likelihood of death or serious injury as a result of crashes, he said.

Although the maximum posted speed limit on interstate highways is 70 miles per hour, troopers estimate average speeds on interstates to be 80 to 85 miles per hour.



Mrs. Della and Evelyn enjoy two of the park benches located in the shade provided by the pine and oak trees.

## ART (Continued from Page One)

"The good news is, in real life, he's just like he is on camera," Williams said.

After the taping, Rogers told Williams he was grateful for his interest in the program and expressed to him how fortunate he is to work in a medium with such wide coverage.

He said people don't understand the power of "narrow casting," but there's a lot to be gained by being in contact with one another," Williams said. "His goal is always to produce a program with good values. It's the message that matters. He spread his hands to all that was around us and said, 'All of this is dross; what is eternal about what we are doing is what matters.'"

Then he asked Williams to play for him.

Williams set down at the piano Johnny Costa had played for so many years. He began to play the music that was so familiar to him and Rogers and Rogers began to sing.

"I was so nervous at first but when he started to sing, it was just like I was home," Williams said. "It was a moment that words can't describe."

It was a beautiful day in Mr. Rogers' neighborhood.

Then something unheard of happened, Rogers invited Williams back for the next taping. At the end of that day, he once again asked Williams to play for him.

Back at home, the TSU senior wrote Rogers to thank him for giving him an experience he will always treasure.

"I was reminded of words from *The Little Prince*. 'What is essential is invisible to the eye.' What Fred Rogers has given to this generation of children is essential. He has made a difference in my life and I am grateful."

Williams is the son of Douglas and Glend Williams of Elba.



Mrs. Carolyn Boswell was crowned Ms. Pike Manor 1997. Pictured with her is her husband Sammy Boswell.

## Mrs. Carolyn Boswell crowned Ms. Pike Manor 1997

Mrs. Carolyn Boswell was recently crowned Ms. Pike Manor 1997.

"This has been so much fun," she said. "I'm just as excited as I can be."

Mrs. Boswell was taken to Pike Manor in January, 1996, in extremely serious condition, but her husband, Sammy Boswell, said, "I've seen her come from the bottom up."

"When we brought her here, I didn't think I'd ever see her up again. God has blessed her by letting her be here. . . these people at Pike Manor . . . have brought her back."

Mrs. Boswell's parents, Earl and Zora Yeagan of Prattville, and her husband's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Abernethy, shared the happy moment with her.

The Boswells' home is in Troy, and their son Robert is a Troy resident.

Before her health problems, Mrs. Boswell played piano and sang with The Singing Messengers Gospel Group.



SPECIAL DONATION TO ADULT DAY CARE...The Clients of Elba's Adult Day Care Center were donated a sewing machine by the Wal-Mart Supercenter. Pictured above are (l-r): Fran Gardner, Jr., Department of Human Resources; Eloise Davis, Wal-Mart Supercenter's Promotions Coordinator; and Lee Edwards, Director of the Elba Adult Day Care Center. Wal-Mart was presented a certificate of appreciation for their donation to the center.

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# The Elba Clipper

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ELBA, ALABAMA, THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1997

1 SECTION, 12 PAGES PLUS 1 ADV. INSERT

## Coffee County Commission supports new jury venire law

by Marvin McLwain - Editor

State Representative Garret Moore was in attendance at Monday's meeting of the Coffee County Commission. He addressed the commission concerning the county-wide jury venire law.

First, Rep. Moore offered an apology to the present members of the commission as well as the former commission.

"I want to apologize for an oversight on my part," he said.

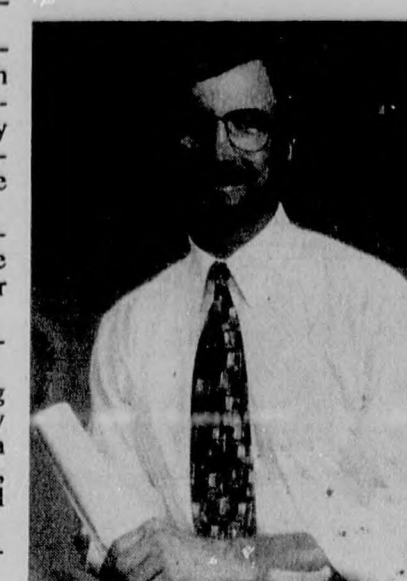
He told commissioners having come from the business community when he was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1994, he was not familiar with the political process in enacting local legislation.

"I come before you today to rectify that situation," said Moore.

"During the 1996 regular session, I introduced a local act, and it passed, changing the way jury venires are selected in Coffee County," he said.

Moore noted that the bill, before its passage, was advertised in local newspapers for four weeks and he also spoke with many, many individuals from all over Coffee County - both sides (Enterprise Division and Elba Division) concerning the bill.

"During this period of over a year



Rep. Garret Moore

and a half when I was talking to people, I got no letters, no phone calls, no opposition to changing this law," said Moore. "So I went forward. My big oversight was not coming before the county commission and asking for a resolution to support this law, and for that I apologize."

Moore stated that he was aware of letters that had been received by

members of the commission in support of this new law.

He noted that his introduction of this legislation was not due to any personal interest, but because he thought it was right for Coffee County.

"I need to be one county. I don't think we need to be two halves," Moore said. "I think that it was a very proactive step, as we enter the 21st century, in moving Coffee County forward, and it is not done as a divided county but as a unified county."

Moore commented that the new law has several advantages, one being that it lessens the possibility of mistrials due to a person serving on an Enterprise Division jury while residing in the Elba Division and vice versa.

Rep. Moore also alluded to the fact that the law has already been challenged in court one time and is currently before the courts for a second time.

The courts ruled that the law is constitutional in the first instance, and a hearing is scheduled for the second challenge on or about July 10. Moore feels that the courts will rule in favor of the law a second time as well.

"The proposition that I bring before you today is to take a stance as a legislative body," said Moore.

"I would ask that you pass a resolution in support of the unified jury pool in Coffee County, or pass a resolution asking me, as your representative, to go to Montgomery at the next regular session and repeal this act," he said.

With that comment, Rep. Moore

opened the floor for questions from the commissioners.

Commission Chairman Tom Grimsley made the motion that the commission pass a resolution endorsing the new jury venire law. Grimsley's motion was seconded by Kayo Lewis.

After a brief discussion of the motion, the commission voted in favor of the law and passed a resolution to that effect by a 6-0-1 vote.

Commissioner Robert Stephens abstained from voting on the resolution explaining that he felt the people of Coffee County should vote on this matter.

Please See CCC, Page 6

FLOOD PUMP INSTALLATION HAS BEGUN

Sharpless then nominated Daniel Stephens to serve another term in the position. This also ended in a 3-3 tie vote, with the three who opposed the previous nomination voting for Stephens and the three who supported Coleman, opposing this nomination.

The council followed the recommendation of Mayor Grimes and approved a new ordinance reverting back to the State of Alabama to collect the city sales tax effective October 1, 1997.

Grimes explained that the state was lowering its collection of city sales tax from 3.3 percent to 3.0 percent. He said the second new police car has been received and is on line. The details on the new NCI machine are being compiled and Whitworth plans a formal report to the council in the near future.

City Clerk Donnie Morrow reported to the council that the contractor has begun work on the flood pumps. He said they started pouring concrete for the footings on Monday.

A new litter ordinance was presented to the council for consideration. The council passed the stiffer

Please See CITY, Page 6

DAVID LOWERY WILL REMAIN IN ELBA SCHOOL SYSTEM

## EHS's head football coach resigns

By Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Elba High School is actively searching for a head football coach following the resignation of David Lowery.

In a special meeting of the Elba City School Board Monday evening, Superintendent Charles Pearce presented the resignation requests of Lowery, Spanish/Social Studies teacher Cathy Jacobs and LD/EC instructor Nancy Swanson. The board accepted all three requests.

Lowery, who served two years as head coach, will remain in the system as a teacher.

Jacobs resigned for health reasons and Swanson resigned due to her husband's job transfer.

The school is taking applications for the coaching position, with hopes of filling the slot soon. Administrative staff members have already been interviewing applicants for the LD/EC position, but Pearce is weighing several options to fill the foreign language position.

Potential applicants for the coaching position have been calling the Coffee County Board of Education, which will have to have the final approval of Gov. Fob James.

The contract on the summer projects involving improvements at Kingston High School, New Brockton Elementary School, and Zion Chapel High School was awarded to Rankin.

Rankin submitted the low bid at \$246,936.00.

The board's architect, David

In good news for non-tenured staff members, the board voted Monday evening to accept the recommendation of the superintendent and call back all of them who wish to return to another year.

The scheduled public hearings on the local school budget have been postponed. The law required these hearings, but when state officials realized the impossibility of preparing a local budget without the legislature passing, and the Governor signing, a state-wide Education Trust Fund had to be established.

They instructed the school boards to postpone these hearings. They will be rescheduled at a later date.

Board members were given the results of the April, 1997 SAT scores for the Elba schools. Pearce reported his pride in the students and teachers over the positive results.

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